

Preliminary Amendment
PCT/IE00/00086
Attorney Docket Q77116
August 21, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please delete the heading “Claims” and insert the heading

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) A storage case for a data or music disc (2), the storage case comprising an outer shell (4), and an inner carrier (5), the inner carrier (5) defining a disc accommodating means (20) for receiving and storing a disc (2) therein with the disc defining a storing plane (18), the inner carrier (5) being slideable in the outer shell (4) between a closed position within the outer shell (4) and an open position extending outwardly of the outer shell (4) for providing access to the disc accommodating means (20), and a securing means (30, 33) in the inner carrier (5) for securing the disc in the disc accommodating means (18), characterized in that a guide means (25, 26) is provided in the inner carrier (5) for slideably guiding the disc with the disc lying in the storing plane (18) into and out of the disc accommodating means (20), and the securing means (30, 33) secures the disc in the storing plane (18) in the disc accommodating means (20) against sliding movement in the storing plane (18) through the guide means (25, 26).

41. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that the securing means (25, 26) is located adjacent the disc accommodating means (20) and extends inwardly

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thereto for releaseably securing the disc (2) in the disc accommodating means (20) against sliding movement through guide means (25, 26).

42. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that the outer shell (4) co-operates with the inner carrier (5) for enclosing the disc accommodating means (20) when the Inner carrier (5) is in the closed position.

43. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claims 40 characterized in that the inner carrier (5) comprises a lower support means (15) for supporting the disc thereon, and an upper retaining means (19) spaced apart from the lower support means (15) and co-operating with the lower support means (15) for defining the disc accommodating means (20) and for retaining the disc (2) in the disc accommodating means (20) against movement of the disc perpendicularly to the storing plane (18).

44. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 43 characterized in that the lower support means (15) comprises a support plate (15) for co-operating with the outer shell (4) when the inner carrier (5) is in the closed position for enclosing the disc accommodating means (20).

45. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that the outer shell (4) comprises a top plate (8) and a pair of spaced apart elongated side walls (9) extending downwardly from the top plate (8) for co-operating with the inner carrier (5) for enclosing the disc accommodating means (20), and preferably, the top plate (8) of the outer shell (4) and the support plate (15) of the inner carrier (5) extend parallel to each other and are spaced apart therefrom when the inner carrier (5) is in the closed position, and advantageously, each side wall (9) of the outer shell (4) defines an elongated track (11) for slideably engaging and

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accommodating the inner carrier (5) between the open and closed positions, and preferably, the outer shell (4) is of inverted U-shaped transverse cross-section, and advantageously, a pair of inwardly directed lips (10) extend from the respective side walls (9) for forming the corresponding tracks (11).

46. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 43 characterized in that a pair of spaced apart front and rear end walls (16, 17) extend upwardly from the lower support means (15) of the inner carrier (5) and define with the lower support means (15) and the upper retaining means (19) the disc accommodating means (20), the front and rear spaced apart end walls (16, 17) extending between the side walls (9) of the outer shell (4) when the inner carrier (5) is in the closed position, and preferably, the upper retaining means (19) of the inner carrier (5) comprises an upper retaining member (19) extending between the respective front and rear end walls (16, 17).

47. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 43 characterized in that the securing means (30, 33) is located between the lower support means (15) and the upper retaining means (19) of the inner carrier (5).

48. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 43 characterized in that the securing means (30, 33) comprises a pair of spaced apart disc engaging clips (30) for engaging the disc (2) on respective opposite sides of a diameter (32) of the disc, and for urging the disc diametrically along the said diameter (32) into engagement with a diametrically opposed disc abutment means (33) for securing the disc (2) in the disc accommodating means (20), and preferably, at least one of the disc engaging clips (30) of the securing means (30, 33) is resiliently mounted for

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resiliently engaging the disc (2) as the disc is slid from one side (23,24) into and out of the disc accommodating means (20), and advantageously, each of the disc engaging clips (30) of the securing means (30, 33) is resiliently mounted for resiliently engaging the disc (2) as the disc is slid from either side (23, 24) into and Out of the disc accommodating means (20), and preferably, the disc engaging clips (30) are mounted on one of the front and rear end walls (16, 17), and the disc abutment means (33) is mounted on the other of the front and rear end walls (16, 17), and preferably, the disc abutment means (33) is provided by a pair of spaced apart abutment members (33) for engaging the disc (2) on respective opposite sides of the said diameter (32) of the disc.

49. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 43 characterized in that the guide means (25, 26) is provided to on. side of The upper retaining means (19) for slideably guiding the disc into and out of the disc accommodating means (20).

50. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 49 characterized in that a pair of guide means (25, 26) are provided on respective opposite sides (23, 24) of the upper retaining means (19).

51. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 43 characterized in that each guide means (25, 26) comprises a pair of spaced apart guide plates (24, 26) located above and spaced apart from the lower support means (15) at respective opposite ends thereof for slideably guiding the disc into and out of the disc accommodating means (20).

52. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that a locating means

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(45, 46, 50, 51) is provided on the outer shell (4) for co-operating with an outer shell (4) of an adjacent storing case (1) for accommodating stacking of the storage case (1) with the other storage case (1), one above the other.

53. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 52 characterized in that the locating means (45, 46, 50, 51) comprises one of a first male and female locating means (45, 40) mounted on one of a side or end of the outer shell (4) for co-operating with a corresponding other of a first male or female locating means (45, 46) on the outer shell (4) of the other storage case (1), and one of a second male and female locating means (50, 51) on the other of the side or end of the outer shell (4) for co-operating with a corresponding other of a second male and female locating means (50, 51) on the outer shell (4) of the other storage case (1), and preferably, the other of the first male and female locating means (45, 46) and the other of the second male and female locating means (50, 51) are provided on the outer shell (4) for co-operating with corresponding others of first and second male and female locating means (45, 46, 50, 51) on an outer shell(4) of another storage case (1).

54. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 53 characterized in that the first male locating means (45) extends upwardly from the top plate (8) of the outer shell (4), and preferably, the second male locating means (50) extends upwardly from the top plate (8) of the outer shell (4), and advantageously, a pair of spaced apart second male locating means (50) are provided on the top plate (8) of the outer shell (4), and preferably, the first female locating means (46) is located on the underside of the outer shell (4), and preferably, the second female locating means (51) is located on the underside of the outer shell (4).

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55. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that one of the inner carrier (5) and the outer shell (4) defines a label receiving means (37).

56. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 55 characterized in that the lower support means (15) of the inner carrier (5) is of double skinned construction for defining the label receiving means (37) therebetween.

57. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that the disc accommodating means (20) is a disc storing area (20), and preferably, the disc accommodating means (20) defines a compact disc, which may be a CD ROM compact disc, or may be a music compact disc, or may be a DVD disc.

58. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that a first grip means (40, 41) is provided for releasably engaging and retaining the inner carrier (5) in the closed position in the outer shell (4).

59. (New) A storage case as claimed in Claim 40 characterized in that a second grip means (43, 44) is provided for retaining the inner carrier (5) connected to the outer shell (4) when the inner carrier (5) is in the open position, and preferably, the second grip means releasably retains the inner carrier (5) connected to the outer shell (4) when the inner carrier (5) is in the open position.